Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces prior versions:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A linkage system which links a first computer of a first medical institution with a second computer of a second medical institution through a network,

wherein the first computer ~~of the first medical institution comprising~~ comprises:

a database configured to be written/read patient data of patients of the first medical institution and medical treatment data related to the patient data;

a communication terminal configured to send ~~for sending~~ out an e-mail to the network and to receive ~~receiving~~ an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry file creator configured to create ~~creating means for creating~~ an inquiry file having patient data and medical treatment data both extracted from the database ~~an inquiry basic data file having a patient information~~ and inquiry contents;

an inquiry mail creator configured to create ~~creating means for creating~~ an e-mail being attached to the created inquiry file ~~having the inquiry basic data file as an attachment file thereto~~ and to address ~~addressing~~ the created e-mail to the second computer through the communication terminal of the first computer;

a reply file reader configured to read out a reply file from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of the first computer;

~~a reply contents output means for outputting reply contents being included in an attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;~~ and

wherein the second computer ~~of the second medical institution comprising~~ comprises:

a communication terminal <u>configured to send</u> ~~for sending~~ out an e-mail to the network

and <u>to receive</u> ~~receiving~~ an e-mail from the network;

<u>an inquiry file reader configured to read out an inquiry file from an e-mail received</u>

<u>through the communication terminal of the second computer;</u>

~~an inquiry contents output means for outputting inquiry contents being included in an~~

~~attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;~~

<u>a data editor configured to edit medical treatment data in the read inquiry file based on</u>

<u>data entry through an input device of the second computer;</u>

a reply file <u>creator configured to create</u> ~~creating means for creating~~ a reply file <u>including</u>

<u>the edited medical treatment data</u> ~~a reply basic data file having an answer to the outputted inquiry~~

~~contents~~; and

a reply mail <u>creator configured to create</u> ~~creating means for creating~~ an e-mail <u>being</u>

<u>attached to the created reply file</u> ~~having the reply basic data file as an attachment file thereto~~ and

<u>to address</u> ~~addressing~~ the created e-mail to the first computer <u>through the communication</u>

<u>terminal of the second computer.</u>

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A linkage system according to claim 1,

~~wherein the first computer further comprising:~~

~~a patient data item selecting means for designating each patient data item to be given to~~

~~the inquiry file creating means as the patient information; and~~

~~a patient data item revising means for revising the contents of the designated patient data~~

~~item~~

wherein each data item of the patient data included in the inquiry file is specified based on data entry through an input device of the first computer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A computer of a medical institution in a linkage system which links computers to each other through a network, the computer of the medical institution comprising:

a database configured to be written/read patient data of patients of the medical institution and medical treatment data related to the patient data;

~~a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-mail from the network;~~

a communication terminal configured to send out an e-mail to the network and to receive an e-mail from the network;

~~an inquiry file creating means for creating an inquiry basic data file having a patient information and inquiry contents and a medical data file based on a medical data of the patient specified by the patient information; and~~

an inquiry file creator configured to create an inquiry file having patient data and medical treatment data both extracted from the database and inquiry contents;

~~an inquiry mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the inquiry basic data file and the medical data file as attachment files thereto and addressing to a predetermined computer of another medical institution in the linkage system~~

an inquiry mail creator configured to create an e-mail being attached to the created inquiry file and to address the created e-mail to a target computer through the communication terminal of the computer; and

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a reply file reader configured to read out a reply file from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of another computer.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A computer of a medical institution according to claim 6, ~~wherein the computer of the medical institution further comprising:~~

~~a patient data item selecting means for designating each patient data item to be given to the inquiry file creating means as the patient information; and~~

~~a patient data item revising means for revising the contents of the designated patient data item~~

wherein each data item of the patient data included in the inquiry file is specified based on the data entry through an input device of the computer.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer of a medical institution in a linkage system which links computers to each other through a network, the computer of the medical institution comprising:

~~a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-mail from the network;~~

a communication terminal configured to send out an e-mail to the network and to receive an e-mail from the network;

~~an inquiry contents output means for outputting inquiry contents being included in an attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;~~

an inquiry file reader configured to read out an inquiry file from an e-mail received

through the communication terminal of the computer;

a data editor configured to edit medical treatment data in the read inquiry file based on

data entry through an input device of the computer;

~~a reply file creating means for creating a reply basic data file having an answer to the~~

~~outputted inquiry contents; and~~

a reply file creator configured to create a reply file including the edited medical treatment

data; and

~~a reply mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the reply basic data file as an~~

~~attachment file thereto and addressing to a predetermined computer of another medical~~

~~institution in the linkage system~~

a reply mail creator configured to create an e-mail being attached to the created reply file

and to address the created e-mail to the computer specified by the received e-mail through the

communication terminal of the computer.

Claims 10 and 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A computer program which allows a computer in a

linkage system of computers of medical institutions being linked to each other through a network

to function as:

~~an inquiry contents output means for outputting inquiry contents being included in an~~

~~attachment file of a received e-mail in a predetermined mode;~~

an inquiry file reader configured to read out an inquiry file from an e-mail received

through a communication terminal of the computer;

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a data editor configured to edit medical treatment data in the read inquiry file based on data entry through an input device of the computer;

~~a reply file creating means for creating a reply basic data file having an answer to the outputted inquiry contents; and~~

a reply file creator configured to create a reply file including the edited medical treatment data; and

~~a reply mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the reply basic data file as an attachment file thereto and addressing to a predetermined computer of another medical institution in the linkage system~~

a reply mail creator configured to create an e-mail being attached to the created reply file and to address the created e-mail to the computer specified by the received e-mail through the communication terminal of the computer.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A linkage system which links a first computer of a first medical institution with a second computer of a second medical institution through a network,

wherein the first computer ~~of the first medical institution comprising~~ comprises:

a database configured to be written/read patient data of patients of the first medical institution and medical treatment data related to the patient data;

a communication terminal configured to send ~~for sending~~ out an e-mail to the network and to receive ~~receiving~~ an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry file creator configured to create an inquiry file having patient data and medical treatment data both extracted from the database and inquiry contents;

an ID data creator configured to create ID data uniquely identifying the created inquiry

file;

an inquiry mail <u>creator</u> ~~creating~~ <u>configured to create an e-mail having the created ID data</u>

<u>and being attached to the created inquiry file and to address the created e-mail to the second</u>

<u>computer through the communication terminal of the first computer</u> ~~means for creating an e-mail~~

~~having the inquiry-basic data file of a patient information and inquiry contents as an attachment~~

~~file thereto and addressing to the second computer;~~

an ID data reader <u>configured to read out ID data from an e-mail received through the</u>

<u>communication terminal of the first computer;</u>

~~a mail control data setting means for setting an unique control data to the created inquiry~~

~~e-mail;~~

~~a mail control means for controlling e-mails in pairs, the e-mails being set corresponding~~

~~control data respectively; and~~

~~wherein the second computer of the second medical institution comprising:~~

~~a communication terminal for sending out an e-mail to the network and receiving an e-~~

~~mail from the network;~~

a reply <u>file reader configured to read out a reply file from an e-mail received through the</u>

<u>communication terminal of</u> ~~mail creating means for creating an e-mail having the reply-basic~~

~~data file of an answer to the inquiry contents as an attachment file thereto and addressing to~~ the

first computer;

a mail <u>controller configured to</u> control <u>an inquiry mail and a reply mail in pairs provided</u>

<u>that they have ID data corresponding to each other</u> ~~data setting means for setting a control data~~

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~~being created correspondingly by the control data of the inquiry e-mail to the created reply e-mail~~; and

wherein the second computer comprises:

a communication terminal configured to send out an e-mail to the network and to receive an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry file reader configured to read out an inquiry file from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of the second computer;

an ID data reader configured to read out ID data from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of the second computer;

an ID data creator configured to create ID data corresponding to the read ID data;

a data editor configured to edit medical treatment data in the read inquiry file based on data entry through an input device of the second computer;

a reply file creator configured to create a reply file including the edited medical treatment data;

a reply mail creator configured to create an e-mail having the created ID data and being attached to the created reply file and to address the created e-mail to the first computer through the communication terminal of the second computer; and

a mail controller configured to control an inquiry mail and a reply mail in pairs provided that they have ID data corresponding to each other

~~a mail control means for controlling e-mails in pairs, the e-mails being set corresponding control data respectively.~~

Claims 14 and 15 (canceled)

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Claim 16 (new): A linkage system according to claim 1, wherein the data value of each data item of the patient data included in the inquiry file is modified based on data entry through an input device of the first computer.

Claim 17 (new): A computer of the medical institution according to claim 6, wherein the data value of each data item of the patient data included in the inquiry file is modified based on data entry through an input device of the computer.

Claim 18 (new): A computer program which allows a computer in a linkage system of computers of medical institutions being linked to each other through a network to function as:

an inquiry file creator configured to create an inquiry file having patient data and medical treatment data both extracted from a database of the computer and inquiry contents;

an inquiry mail creator configured to create an e-mail being attached to the created inquiry file and to address the created e-mail to a target computer through a communication terminal of the computer; and

a reply file reader configured to read out a reply file from an e-mail received through the communication terminal.

Claim 19 (new): A computer of a medical institution in a linkage system which links computers to each other through a network, the computer of the medical institution comprising:

a database configured to be written/read patient data of patients of the medical institution and medical treatment data related to the patient data;

a communication terminal configured to send out an e-mail to the network and to receive an e-mail from the network;

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an inquiry file creator configured to create an inquiry file having patient data and medical treatment data both extracted from the database and inquiry contents;

an ID data creator configured to create ID data uniquely identifying the created inquiry file;

an inquiry mail creator configured to create an e-mail having the created ID data and being attached to the created inquiry file and to address the created e-mail to a target computer through the communication terminal of the first computer;

an ID data reader configured to read out ID data from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of the computer;

a reply file reader configured to read out a reply file from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of the computer;

a mail controller configured to control an inquiry mail and a reply mail in pairs provided that they have ID data corresponding each other; and

a display controller configured to display an inquiry mail and a reply mail in pairs provided that they have ID data corresponding to each other.

Claim 20 (new): A computer of a medical institution in a linkage system which links computers to each other through a network, the computer of the medical institution comprising:

a communication terminal configured to send out an e-mail to the network and to receive an e-mail from the network;

an inquiry file reader configured to read out an inquiry file from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of the computer;

an ID data reader configured to read out ID data from an e-mail received through the communication terminal of the computer;

an ID data creator configured to create ID data corresponding to the read ID data;

a data editor configured to edit medical treatment data in the read inquiry file based on data entry through an input device of the computer;

a reply file creator configured to create a reply file including the edited medical treatment data;

a reply mail creator configured to create an e-mail having the created ID data and being attached to the created reply file and to address the created e-mail to the computer specified by the received e-mail through the communication terminal of the computer; and

a mail controller configured to control an inquiry mail and a reply mail in pairs provided that they have ID data corresponding to each other; and

a display controller configured to display an inquiry mail and a reply mail in pairs provided that they have ID data corresponding to each other.